

Grammar Spotlight- Commas

Comma usage isn't that difficult when you start to see the patterns of sentences. Below are the first four rules you will review for comma usage:

1. In a Compound sentence, a comma and a conjunction joins the two simple sentences together.

I went to the store, but it was closed.

My sister likes chocolate cake, but I like vanilla.

2. In a Complex sentence, a comma is used to join the fragmented sentence to the complete sentence.

After I ate dinner, I brushed my teeth.

When I jog, I like to change the route often.

3. After an introductory clause, word, or phrase, a comma links the clause to the rest of the sentence.

Before the show, I bought popcorn.

Later, I remembered the answer.

4. Use two commas to set off an appositive (renaming) phrase, unless the renaming phrase is at the end of a sentence.

My sister, a physical therapist, lives in Massachusetts.

I gave it to Tom, a boy in my class.

Practice: Rewrite each sentence, inserting commas where they belong.

1. After I had finished reading the book I took an AR test.
2. Tomorrow I will send the letter to you.
3. My dog a schnauzer loves to play with his toys.
4. I told my teacher I didn't want to do this assignment and I would do another instead.
5. Despite his best efforts to remember his lunch money he forgot.
6. The owner of the house a grumpy old man yelled at me to get off his yard.
7. When I see him acting in such strange ways I get really concerned but rarely do I speak to him
8. Finally I understand the meaning of life!
9. Although I couldn't reach the top shelf I was able to climb up and grab the box of cereal.
10. Later he recalled that he had given it to Tina his next-door neighbor.